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POLAND: Parliament Approves Bills

The Polish parliament yesterday routinely approved legislation that postponed elections for local people's councils until 1984, established an advisory socioeconomic council, and set up a tribunal that eventually will bring former party leader Gierek to trial. The parliament, however, did not amend the constitution to include a provision for a state of emergency. [REDACTED]

Comment: Solidarity's demands for free elections to the people's councils was one of the political demands that brought on martial law, and the regime apparently does not want to face elections until it can restore control. Solidarity also had demanded an independent council to act as a check on the government, but the new council will have little room for maneuver. Passage of a constitutional amendment creating the legal basis for a state of emergency would have allowed Premier Jaruzelski to end martial law while keeping much of the repressive apparatus in place. In failing to propose such a bill, Poland's military leaders demonstrated their intention to retain political power for some time to come. [REDACTED]

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